

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

March 26, 2014

Present:

​Carl

Brunetti​​Bob

Turner​​Hagop

Jawharjian​​Paul

Deutsch

​Maria

Marcello​​Richard

Foster​​Bill

DiBiasio​​​Rhonda

Lacombe

Absent:

**​Paul DiDomenico​Bill McManus​​Mike
Babbitt​​​**

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:35 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 25th were distributed for review.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to accept the minutes.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0 with Hagop Jawharjian and Paul Deutsch abstaining as they were not present on March 25th.

Correspondence

The revised schedule of the Town Facilities Tour to take place on Saturday, March 29th was distributed.

The Budget Board asked the Town Administrator for a list of the school positions that do not appear in the operating budget.

The Town Administrator replied that he will check with the Superintendent for more information including whether Title I and Title II positions are included, and he will get back to the Budget Board.

Public Comment

MaryAnn McComiskey was present and had some questions and wanted some clarification on the things discussed at the last Budget Board meeting.

MaryAnn asked whether the \$1.06 million school surplus is an accumulation of several years or if that was one year's surplus.

The Budget Board answered that it is several year's accumulated surplus.

The \$1 million surplus exists after using \$800,000 of surplus funds for repairs to the roof at Northern last year and over \$400,000 for system-wide security upgrades, (a total of \$1,224,063)

That surplus does not return to the Town's General Fund, it goes to the School Capital Reserve.

State Law says that the schools can use the surplus for anything but

the Budget Board and School Committee and Department have generally agreed that they will still work within the confines of the budget process and submit projects for those funds as any others would be submitted.

It was noted the Town does not typically take funds for capital improvement projects out of the operating budget like many other communities do.

If the School Department has unanticipated circumstances/expenses and they do not have the funds to transfer to cover that they can go to the Town at the end of the year and request a supplemental.

The Town is not supposed to tax for a surplus so the goal is to come as close to the budgeted/allocated amount as possible so that there is not a large surplus left.

The anticipated/projected surplus so far for the current year is \$778,816 and most of that will likely be used to cover some capital improvement projects that have been recommended.

The School Committee had recommended a \$2.57 million increase over last year's budget.

The Town administrator recommended a \$1.2 million increase.

MaryAnn McComiskey noted that the types of services the School Department is discussing and will allegedly have to cut due to budget constraints is not good.

MaryAnn has heard that the Superintendent has given layoff notices

with the perception that if the School Committee's recommended budget is not approved those positions will need to be cut permanently.

Some of the areas that are being looked at are reportedly Reading Specialists, Nursing Services, and Mental Health Services.

The Budget Board noted that some of those positions were already been reduced in the School Committee's recommended budget and others, such as the Reading Specialists, have been traded for different services like Math Specialists due to need based on testing results.

Rhonda Sexton noted that there is a nursing position retiring.

The Budget Board discussed that that position was not on the list they were given of anticipated retirees.

The Budget Board noted that last year, the School Committee recommended level funding for their budget and this year the Budget Board has not even voted upon anything with the school budget yet, so to say there have been cuts that will decimate the budget is incorrect.

In fact, the local appropriation has been level funded to meet the minimum maintenance of effort for the past 5 years, and by State Law that could have been challenged for a decrease due to declining enrollment but that was never done.

Things like the \$517,000 added to the education budget from the floor of the Financial Town Meeting end up getting carried forward and

paid for in future years as well due to that maintenance of effort that says the funding has to be at least equal to the prior year.

This year, the School Committee recommended budget seems to have taken the minimum maintenance of effort, increased that by the 4% allowed by the state cap, and then added in anticipated state aid to come up with their total proposal rather than a zero base budget.

Unanticipated expenses, like additional special needs students moving in, are the reason why the education budget is a bottom-line budget so that items can be adjusted and moved around within the budget to be spent as needed.

86% of the budget is personnel expenses.

The Budget Board noted that if there are concerns that class sizes are too large, particularly in the early elementary level, there are ways that you could help that situation that may require using space differently and looking at all of the possibilities.

It was also noted that the Capital Reserve Fund was started by the Budget Board as a way to set funds aside for projects because capital improvement projects were not getting done even though they were being funded.

MaryAnn McComiskey does think there is definitely the perception among teachers and parents this year that unless money is added to the budget there are going to be devastating cuts that will affect important programs and services, and she thought that the Budget

Board meeting attended by teachers helped in increasing understanding of the process and what is going on.

Business

FY 15 Municipal Budget

The Budget Board began voting on the Operating Municipal Budget as follows:

Department 4100 – Town Administrator

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Town Administrator's budget be recommended at \$153,115 for an increase of \$25,112 over the previous year.

The Budget Board discussed how to handle the \$1 or \$2 differences in the proposed budget due to rounding and decided to just make a statement at the Financial Town Meeting to alleviate any confusion or questions.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4110 - Town Planner

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Town Planner's budget be recommended at \$139,572 for a decrease of \$3,222 over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4130 – Personnel

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the

Personnel budget be recommended at \$110,987 which is no change over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4140 - Town Clerk

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Town Clerk budget be recommended at \$221,621 for an increase of \$23,202 over the previous year.

Town Meeting has been overspent historically but the audit shows that the funds were used from somewhere else to cover that.

The Budget Board wanted to make sure that people know the large increase in the Town Clerk budget is due to it being an election year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4150 – Finance

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Finance budget be recommended at \$440,542 for a decrease of \$10,922 over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4160 - Tax Assessor

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Tax Assessor budget be recommended at \$124,674 for a decrease of \$1,428 over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4170 - Information Technologies

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Information Technologies budget be recommended at \$191,890 for an increase of \$20,264 over the previous year.

The increase in Maintenance Support was explained in information received from the Town Administrator and Finance Director.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4200 – Public Safety, Police

The Budget Board deferred voting on the Police Budget until more information is received regarding Equipment and Clothing expenses.

Department 4204 - Public Safety, Animal Control

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Animal Control budget be recommended at \$83,745 for an increase of \$2,500 over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4210 – Public Safety, Rescue

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Rescue budget be recommended at \$1,535,962 for an increase of \$65,064 over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4230 - Human Services

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the

Human Services budget be recommended at \$349,377 for an increase of \$11,935 over the previous year.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster to add a line for Substance Abuse Coordinator Grant Matching for \$20,000 based on the Town Administrator's recommendation.

The Budget Board discussed whether \$8,000 for Utilities is enough, and when they met with the School Department they believed it was.

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Human Services budget be recommended at \$369,377 for an increase of \$31,935 over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

It was noted that there was a 501C3 created for the Senior Center (and for the Literacy Center) that allows people to donate directly to the organization rather than the Town, and Twin River has added \$20,000 for programs at the Senior Center.

Department 4300 - Public Works, General

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Public Works General budget be recommended at \$112,040 for a decrease of \$432 over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4310 – Public Works, Engineering

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Engineering budget be recommended at \$91,334 for an increase of \$1,500 over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4320 – Public Works, Code Enforcement

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Code Enforcement budget be recommended at \$188,865 for an increase of \$2,649 over the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4330 – Public Works, Parks and Recreation

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Parks and Recreation budget be recommended at \$601,754 for an increase of \$533 the previous year.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Department 4350 – Public Works, Tree Warden

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, that the Tree Warden budget be recommended at \$35,400 which represents no change to last year's budget.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Discussed \$ for new trees

Algae Control, Rodent and Pest Control haven't been spent

Algaecide no one certified to use?

Withdraw motion, table until more info

Department 4400 - Public Works, Public Buildings

321,472 incr 7

Bill, Richard

Department 4400 – Public Works, Central Services

Need to hold off

Department 5000 - Recycling

170,932 dec 631

Bill, Richard

Department 4800 – Public Library

1071,5

Bill, Richard

Joe said agree w Incr maintenance from 6500 to 8000

Mike said need more

Bob 8,000 for maintenance

Hagop 2nd

Bob Health Insurance 133,225 for an incr of 2275

Bill 2nd

Discussed Health self insurance – 200k is max can pay for one person before kicks in

Note: have to go back and correct Fixed Charges now

1,081,264 for no change

Bill Rlchadr

Department 4950 – Municipal Bonds

634,063 total municipal debt service decr 16031

School 3191686 decr. 29019

Total 3,825,750 a decr of 45,050 Bill, Richard

Capital Improvement Projects

Furnishings and Road Repair were only questions

Possible to put furnishings \$ in road repair if decidenot to fund that etc.

Discussed going on tour on Saturday

FY 15 Education Budget

Discussed the surplus, that union will probably be looking at it for negotiations etc.

Discussed that it's the school comm. budg recomm, not superint

Discussed John will provide info he gathered for Woon about all communities salaries

Public Comment

There were no public comments or questions at the time.

Adjourn

Bill DiBiasio made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.